

Today's Topics:

ARRL 90: NTIA POLICY REVIEW
ARRL NR 89: CORRECTED NR 89
ARRL PFB NR 50
ARRL Propagation Forecast Bn Nr 49
Mac vs. IBM: IBM wins

Date: 13 Dec 89 02:24:58 GMT

From: n8emr!gws@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Gary Sanders)

Subject: ARRL 90: NTIA POLICY REVIEW

Message-ID: <1381@n8emr.UUCP>

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ARRL BULLETIN 90 ARLB090

DECEMBER 12, 1989

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, NTIA, WHICH SHARES RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE FCC FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE RADIO SPECTRUM, HAS BEGUN A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW OF THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM IN THE UNITED STATES.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS IS A NOTICE OF INQUIRY, NOI, INVITING PUBLIC COMMENT ON A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT, ACCOMMODATING NEW TECHNOLOGIES, BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, SEPARATE PROCESSES FOR GOVERNMENT VERSUS PRIVATE SECTOR ALLOCATIONS, SHARING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SERVICES, MAKING GOVERNMENT FREQUENCIES AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE USE, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PREPARATION, UNMET DEMANDS FOR SPECTRUM, DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS, MEASURING ACTUAL USE VERSUS LICENSES ISSUED, AND INTERFERENCE CAUSED BY UNLICENSED DEVICES. THE FULL TEXT CAN BE FOUND IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER FOR DECEMBER 8, 1989.

IT ALSO WILL BE AVAILABLE AS THE NTIA PAPER FROM THE ARRL REGULATORY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT FOR A LARGE SASE WITH THREE UNITS OF POSTAGE. COMMENT DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 23, 1990 AND REPLY COMMENTS ARE DUE MARCH 30, 1990. ARRL WILL FILE COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE AMATEUR SERVICE.

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Date: 13 Dec 89 02:23:51 GMT
From: n8emr!gws@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Gary Sanders)
Subject: ARRL NR 89: CORRECTED NR 89
Message-ID: <1380@n8emr.UUCP>

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QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 89 ARLB089
>From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT
December 7, 1989
Relayed by KB8NW/OBS & Barf-80 BBS
To all Radio Amateurs

ARRL HQ reminds US amateurs that unattended HF packet operation is presently prohibited by Part 97 Rules, except for those stations specifically granted written special temporary authorization on specific portions of four HF bands. Nonattended STA operation is allowed on Ten Meters. Stations without packet STA authorization must adhere to normal attended control operator requirements.

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Date: 13 Dec 89 02:28:25 GMT
From: n8emr!gws@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Gary Sanders)
Subject: ARRL PFB NR 50
Message-ID: <1383@n8emr.UUCP>

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ARRL PFB NR 50 (ARLP050) 12/11/89

ON 10 DECEMBER THE SOLAR FLUX DIPPED TO 183, ITS LOWEST SINCE 30 OCTOBER, AND THE FIRST FLUX READING UNDER 200 SINCE 29 OCTOBER. THE FLUX AVERAGED 234 IN NOVEMBER. ONLY JUNE WAS HIGHER, WITH 240.4. JUNE ALSO HAS THE CYCLE 22 HIGH TO DATE, 327 ON THE 15TH. NOVEMBER HAD THE HIGHEST LOW, 211. REGARDLESS OF STATISTICS, NOVEMBER MAY HAVE BEEN THE BEST DX MONTH OF CYCLE 22, THANKS TO ITS HIGH SOLAR FLUX MINIMUM AND ITS STRATEGIC POSITION LATE IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE FALL.

TRANSEQUATORIAL PATHS WILL IMPROVE, ESPECIALLY ON THE HIGHER DX FREQUENCIES, AS THE SUN REACHES ITS SOUTHERNMOST POSITION AND BEGINS ITS MOVE BACK NORTH. THE 50 MHZ BAND WILL DO WELL IF SOLAR ACTIVITY HOLDS UP DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE NEW YEAR. NEVER HAS THERE BEEN THE INTEREST IN 6 METER DX THAT EXISTS TODAY, THANKS TO THE BAND BEING OPEN TO AMATEUR USE ALMOST EVERYWHERE. OUR NEW BANDS WILL ALSO REACH THEIR PEAK CONDITIONS FOR TRANSEQUATORIAL WORK AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEW YEAR. SOLAR ACTIVITY IS VERY LOW AS THIS WAS BEING PREPARED OVER THE WEEKEND. LOOK FOR IMPROVED CONDITIONS ON OUR LOWER FREQUENCIES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HIGHER BANDS FOR A FEW DAYS.

AMERICAN SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 6 WERE BETWEEN 155 AND 167 WITH A MEAN OF 160.0. AR

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Date: 13 Dec 89 02:27:15 GMT
From: n8emr!gws@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Gary Sanders)
Subject: ARRL Propagation Forecast Bn Nr 49
Message-ID: <1382@n8emr.UUCP>

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PROPAGATION FORECAST BULLETIN 49 ARLP049
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT DECEMBER 4, 1989
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

AT FIRST GLANCE, THE SOLAR FLUX FOR NOVEMBER IS NOT TOO IMPRESSIVE. ITS HIGH OF 271 WAS EXCEEDED IN SEVERAL EARLIER MONTHS. SEPTEMBER REACHED 305, JUNE 327, FEBRUARY 279 AND JANUARY 294. THE NOVEMBER LOWS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE WELL ABOVE THE LOW RECORDS OF ALL OTHER MONTHS TO DATE. AS A RESULT OF THESE FIGURES, NOVEMBER 1989 WAS PROBABLY THE BEST MONTH OF CYCLE 22 SO FAR, ALL AMATEUR DX BANDS CONSIDERED.

NOBODY KNOWS HOW HIGH LUX RECORDS BACK TO 194 SHOW HIGHER FLUX NUMBERS THAN THOSE SEEN IN CYCLE 22 . IT IS THOUGHT THAT APPRECIABLY HIGHER FLUX READINGS WILL HELP THE BANDS IN THE 28 TO 148 MHZ RANGE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MORE DENSELY OCCUPIED LOWER FREQUENCIES. THE CURRENT CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR BANDS ARE CHANGING FROM DAY AND CYCLE 22 IS ONLY ABOUT FOUR YEARS OLD. IT APPEARS THAT NOVEMBER MAY HAVE SET A PATTERN OF PROPAGATION THAT WILL BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME. DAILY VISUAL OBSERVATION OF THE SUN SHOWS A MORE STABLE PATTERN IN RECENT WEEKS, AS FAR AS NUMBERS ARE CONCERNED, BUT THE APPEARANCE FROM DAY TO DAY CHANGES QUITE MARKEDLY.

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Date: 12 Dec 89 22:41:17 GMT
From: swrinde!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!ctrsol!emory!stiatl!rsiatl!kd4nc!
ke4zv@ucsd.edu (Gary Coffman)
Subject: Mac vs. IBM: IBM wins
Message-ID: <3280@kd4nc.UUCP>

In article <8912120807.AA01074@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU> KENDALLG@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU ("Gary F. Kendall") writes:

>THANKS MUCH for all the very helpful responses I received in making my
>if anyone would like to offer good/bad suggestions on suppliers for 'build-
>your-own' systems I'd really appreciate it. A couple of specific questions
>I have so far are: 1) XT vs. AT vs. 286/386 - which is best?

Go with a 386 if you can afford it (Unix runs nicely on a 386). Go with a 286 system if the 386 breaks the budget. Only if you are below poverty level should you consider an XT system in today's clone market.

> 2) 5.25 inch floppy drive - 360K, 720K or 1.2M?
> (Are there any drives than can handle > 1 format? I'd
> like some flexibility for being able to trade software

> with other people/systems; I already plan to install
> a 3.5 inch drive as well)

A 1.2M will read (and usually write) all the lower density formats. A 1.44M 3.5 inch drive will read and write all lower density formats. Please note that you may need a special controller or a special software driver or both to use high density drives on an XT.

> 3) Operating System - I know MS-DOS is the 'standard';
> what about Unix?

Unix runs best on a fast 386 with big harddisks, however, that said, Unix will run quite nicely on a 16Mhz 386 with a modest (80M) hard disk. Running Unix on a 286 is possible, and I know people that do, but not highly recommended.

>example, is it possible to have a TNC setup running 'background' while doing
>something else with the PC, like playing Adventure? :-)
>

The short answer is yes. There is a TSR driver for the DRSI packet adapter, and of course under Unix there is no problem (especially if you have VPIX--a DOS emulator for Unix).

>Thanks again in advance... '73...
>
>--gary
>Acknowledge-To: <KENDALLG@VTVM1>

You're welcome
Gary KE4ZV

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #1010
